

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**June 1, 2015**

The Jasper County Board of Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, Richard E. Maxwell and James A. Walstra. Also present was Auditor, Kimberly K. Grow; Deputy Auditor, Donna J. Horner; Highway Engineer/Supervisor, Jack R. Haberlin and the Attorney who represents the Commissioners, Eric Beaver. The meeting was called to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Potts, Veteran of the United States Army.

CLAIMS: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the claims as submitted. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIM & ALLOWANCE DOCKET(S): Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket(s) for the check dates equal to May 15, 2015 and May 29, 2015. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 4, 2015. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLE: The following buried cable permits from the City of Rensselaer and United Telephone Company were submitted for approval. Carol Lockridge, City of Rensselaer, was present to request a waiver of the fees associated with the permits. Ms. Lockridge explained that they would be tying two existing mains together.

United Telephone:

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| ACT #705460 | For the purpose of providing telephone service to Kevin Scheurich at 2588 CR 800 South in Marion Township. There is no tile in the area. (Permit #698)           |
| ACT #15073  | For the purpose of replacing 153' existing bsw that cannot be repaired – 20' road bore on Eger Road in Marion Township. There is tile in the area. (Permit #699) |

City of Rensselaer:

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| ACT #001 | For the purpose of extending / looping natural gas service in Marion Township. There is tile in the area. (Permit #700) |
| ACT #002 | For the purpose of extending / looping natural gas service in Marion Township. There is tile in the area. (Permit #701) |
| ACT #003 | For the purpose of extending natural gas service in Marion Township. There is tile in the area. (Permit #702)           |

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the buried cable permits as submitted with the fee to the City of Rensselaer being waived. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

ELECTRONIC MAP DATA APPLICATION AGREEMENT: Alan Shanks, Surveyor's Office, presented a Data Sharing Agreement submitted by Mapping Solutions for approval. Mapping Solutions is a publishing company that is currently working with the Purdue Extension Office to create county plat books. The \$750.00 fee will be charged. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the Map Data Application Agreement with Mapping Solutions. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

ANIMAL CONTROL / FEE INCREASE: Attorney Beaver presented an ordinance that would amend Section 74.06 of Chapter 74 of the Jasper County Code of 1983, as amended, which Chapter relates to Animal Control to read as follows:

Section 74.06, entitled “Redemption and Sale of Impounded Dogs/Cats; Euthanasia of Diseased Dogs/Cats,” is hereby amended such that in subsection (A), in the first sentence of the second full paragraph, the words “six dollars (\$6.00)” are deleted and replaced with the words “ten dollars (\$10.00)”.

If passed today, the ordinance would take effect on July 1, 2015. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve **Ordinance No. 6-01-2015A** increasing the impounded dog/cat daily storage fee. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

ANIMAL CONTROL / GREAT LAKES BIOLOGICAL: Kristen Bahleda, Animal Control Director, stated that the Animal Control Board has approved the use of Great Lakes Biological for the disposal of euthanized cats. Great Lakes Biological works with veterinary schools, colleges, and high schools providing the euthanized cats for educational purposes. Ms. Bahleda stated that the County will receive \$3.00 per cat which will help reduce the cost of rendering fees. Great Lakes Biological will also be providing a freezer for storage use. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the contract with Great Lakes Biological. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

GRANTS / ANIMAL CONTROL: Kristen Bahleda, Animal Control Director, stated that she applied for and has received a grant from the Jasper Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be used towards repairs to the kennels. Ms. Bahleda has also applied for a grant to be used towards the purchase of a picnic table, mulch and a kitten playpen.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION / ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR: Kristen Bahleda, Animal Control Director, submitted her letter of resignation effective Friday, June 12, 2015.

KING LAWLER DITCH / PETITION: Kent Korniak and Dain Hayworth were present with a petition for the King Lawler Ditch. Mr. Korniak stated that they have over 70% of the landowners’ signatures at this time. The County itself has six (6) parcels involved; therefore, Mr. Korniak requested that the Commissioners sign the petition on behalf of the County. Mr. Korniak explained that the petition is needed to request the reconstruction of the tile and to request an increase in the maintenance fund. By signing the petition, it is agreed that the landowners will cover the cost of any reconstruction through the Drainage Board process. After further discussion, Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the Commissioners signing the petition. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

LEADERSHIP JASPER COUNTY: Alice Smith, Extension Educator, introduced Michelle Hanna who was recently hired as a Program Assistant for the summer. Ms. Smith stated that she had the opportunity in early March to attend training on Community Leadership Development Programs. Since the training, Ms. Smith has put together an Advisory Board that will be starting “Leadership Jasper County”. Various groups within the community have been asked to sponsor the program. So far, \$750.00 in sponsorship money has been received. The program will not be cheap to operate; however, we will make it self-sustaining. Ms. Smith stated that they are targeting 30-50 year olds and the class size will be limited to 20. The program fee is \$300.00.

CITIZEN CONCERN / SEEGERs: Upon request from Bernard Seegers, concerned citizen, Mr. Culp gave a follow-up on the flood plain information distributed by Mr. Seegers at last month’s meeting. Mr. Culp stated that he did speak with Mike Kingman, a licensed surveyor. As you know, there were two floodplain maps. One in ’78 and one in ’85 or ’86. The map in 2011 was not adopted. The ’85 map did not include the Kankakee River watershed. Because the ’85 map did not include the watershed, they revert back to the ’78 map which is the most currently adopted that encompasses the entire county including the Kankakee. The map that you referred to with your flood insurance question has not been officially adopted yet by the State. Mr. Seegers stated that the maps that he has were given to Jasper County to abide by. Why do I have to take flood insurance because of the removal of the sand ridge? Mr. Culp replied that would go back to your insurance company’s requirements. Mr. Seegers stated that Mary Scheurich has a letter from FEMA stating why they will not give Jasper County the new floodplain map because of the sand ridge. The levy has been breached. I need something in writing to go to my insurance company.

SIGNAGE / SR 114 & US 231: Due to the increase in semi traffic with the dairies and the interstate interchange that opened up for the Fair Oaks Dairy, Sheriff Risner stated that residents at SR 114 and US 231 have approached him with the increasing issue of compression braking which starts as early as 4:00 A.M. Sheriff Risner contacted the State Highway in regards to possible signage. If the County provides the signage, the State Highway will install it. Sheriff Risner will research further.

COUNTY AUCTION ITEMS: Sheriff Risner reported that they do have a couple of squad cars coming up for sale. Mr. Culp stated that they are looking at Saturday, July 18 as a possible auction date. Sheriff Risner stated that both vehicles were used as detective cars; therefore, they would not require any painting. Both cars are in the 140,000 – 150,000 mile range. Mr. Haberlin stated that the Highway would also have a 2002 truck. Brad Cozza, Jasper County Airport, stated that they will have a snow plow and some snow fence.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TOWER: In regards to the radio communications tower, Sheriff Risner requested that one Commissioner be present during the meetings with RA- COMM and Schultz Electronics. On Monday, May 11, a Motorola Engineer inspected the current equipment shelter. The State is providing approximately \$200,000 in equipment; therefore, they require a structure that meets certain specs. The expected costs to repair / upgrade the current shelter, which is approximately 30+ years old, would exceed \$25,000.00. Sheriff Risner stated that for the cost of repairing the existing structure, we could get a newer structure that already comes equipped with air conditioning. Sheriff Risner stated that he has approximately \$200,000.00 set aside in the Asset Forfeiture Fund that can be used for their portion of the project. Per their agreement with Motorola, the State of Indiana will cover the maintenance for 20 years. Ryan King, E911 Director, has spoken with Mr. Schultz in regards to the cost for the tower rental. The estimated monthly cost would be \$1,300.00 per month if the County purchases the shelter and \$1,500.00 per month if the shelter is rented from Mr. Schultz. This cost would also include the County Highway's radio equipment. In response to Sheriff Risner's earlier request about one of the Commissioners being present for the future meetings, Mr. Culp replied that he could be present.

VOLUNTEER POLICY / WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION: Mr. Culp requested an update from Stace Pickering, Consolidated Insurance, in regards to an accident policy for volunteers. Mr. Pickering stated that the Sheriff's Department has taken care of their policy; however, nothing else has been done as far as the Animal Shelter or the CASA volunteers. In order to move forward, a roster of the volunteers will be needed. Mr. Pickering stated that he would also need an estimated payroll for the CASA volunteers. Auditor Grow will send out an email requesting the needed information. Once the information is received, Mr. Pickering will proceed with the Workman's Compensation policy for the volunteers.

IVY TECH / EVENT: Kevin Kelly, Economic Development Director, stated that Ivy Tech Northwest Society of Innovators will be holding a press conference at Sandy Pines Golf Club on Friday, June 11 at 11:45 A.M. to recognize Greg Hamstra. Mr. Culp will be providing the welcome and Mr. Kelly will be providing an overview of Jasper County.

ANNUAL FLY-IN / DRIVE-IN & PORK CHOP LUNCH: On behalf of the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 828, Brad Cozza, Jasper County Airport Manager, distributed invitations to the Annual Fly-In / Drive-In & Pork Chop Lunch on Saturday, July 11, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

At this time, there was a short break.

CITIZEN CONCERNS / MATHIS: Mr. Culp read the following letter into the minutes upon request from Tom Mathis, concerned citizen:

I am writing since I could not attend today. As you should already know, I am concerned with present and future development in Jasper County. Since I have been attending county planning & development meetings, I have discovered that there is very little regard given to State law and local or county resulting in non conforming uses virtually everywhere. Another home is for sale next door to my home. I am fearful of another business moving in. In late 2007, Hans Kroll was denied opening a body shop unanimously; however he is still in operation. What can be done differently to restore the objectives in the Comprehensive Plan? How will we get growing home based business to relocate to the appropriate zone? Sincerely Tom Mathis

CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Jasper County to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Congressional School Report). Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

FASE CENER / LANDSCAPING & GROUND IMPROVEMENT: Sharon Colee, Executive Director / Jasper County Community Services, submitted a quote from Scott A. Walstra, Walstra Landscaping, in the amount of \$4,995.00. The price quoted includes the removal of excess mulch, cleaning the beds free of weeds, trimming bushes as needed, and installation of weed barrier and large river rock. The price also includes all of the islands and everything around the building including the fenced-in area. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the quote in the amount of \$4,995.00. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

EMPLOYEE BOND: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the employee bond for Terri L. Whitaker, Court Reporter. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS / TRAINING: William Wakeland, Director / Community Corrections, will be attending a seminar on HEA 1006 in Plainfield on June 25, 2015. The cost of the training (\$25.00) will be paid out of the Project Income Fund.

Permission was also requested for Halleck Tanner and Justin Baggerly, Correctional Officers, to attend the “Handle with Care” Instructor Course in Chicago, Illinois, on August 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup>. There are three components to the training (Verbal Training, Basic Physical Training and Instructor Certification). The cost of the training is \$1,000.00 per person; however, we can send two for the price of one when registering for the full program. The cost of the training, hotels and meals will be paid out of the Project Income Fund.

Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve both requests. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT / MEETINGS: Nancy Bailey, Health Department, has requested permission to attend the KIRPC Head Start Health Advisory Committee meetings to be held September 9, 2015; December 9, 2015; and March 9, 2016.

Christy Fisher, Food Sanitarian, will be attending Food Safety Handling in Merrillville on September 10. This class is necessary for certification of the Food Inspector position.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve both requests. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

VETERAN OFFICER / MEMORIAL SERVICE: Patrick Donnelly has been asked to attend the Memorial Service for Charles Martin, a Veteran and resident of Jasper County. The service will be held on June 5 at 11:00 a.m. in Valparaiso. The county vehicle will be used. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

ROAD RESTORATION PROGRAM / HIGHWAY: Mr. Haberlin requested permission for four (4) Highway employees to attend a Road Restoration Program in Indianapolis on June 17. There is no charge. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PART-TIME CUSTODIAN / COURTHOUSE: After some discussion, the decision was made to have Auditor Grow readvertise the part-time custodian position for the Courthouse.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT / 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR: At budget time, the Council approved the HVAC improvements for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Courthouse. Discussion took place in regards to proceeding with the project. Auditor Grow will contact EMCOR to see if a representative will attend the July meeting.

DRAINAGE WORK / ANNEX: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the quote from Von Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$11,600.00 for the drainage work at the Annex. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

GENERATOR / SALE OF: Discussion took place in regards to the sale of the generator that was located at the old jail facility. In regards to the sale of property, Attorney Beaver stated that there needs to be an advertised notice of public sale if the property is worth more than \$1,000.00. The item can be sold at a public sale or through soliciting sealed bids prior to the public sale. After further discussion, the decision was made to advertise for sealed bids to be opened at the July 6, 2015 meeting.

HARRISON STREET PROPERTY: Concern was expressed about the large drop-off that was left when the building originally located at 129 West Harrison Street was demolished. After some discussion, Mr. Culp suggested putting the area to grass.

NIPSCO ENGINEERING AGREEMENT / CR 250E: Attorney Beaver reported that the attorney for NIPSCO has drafted some documents for his review. In response to a comment from Mr. Culp, Ken Minett, Butler, Fairman & Seufert, replied that the high cost for engineering is due to the amount of work that needs to be done. Mr. Minett asked if the County would be taking ownership of the strip once the project is complete? Mr. Culp replied that the County would have a permanent easement. Mr. Minett stated that the easement will need to be described, written and recorded in the Recorder's office. Determination will also be needed as to whether or not we are in the floodplain. If it is determined that the project is within the floodplain, permits will be needed from the DNR.

There being no further business, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to continue the meeting until Monday, June 15 on an as needed basis only. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

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Kendell Culp, President

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James A. Walstra, Vice President

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Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

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Kimberly K. Grow, Jasper County Auditor

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